

## Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 SY-10 SCA-01

EB-11 DRC-01 /162 W

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R 191507Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4747

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD VIA POUCH

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ETRN ICAO UR XF

SUBJECT: SOVIETS DOWN ON TERRORISM, UPBEAT ON GENEVA ME  
CONFERENCE

MONTREAL FOR US REP ICAO

1. SUMMARY: IN CONTEXT OF GROWTH OF EXPLICIT SOVIET  
SUPPORT FOR GENEVA ME CONFERENCE, SOVIET PRESS DEC. 19  
TAKES HARD LINE AGAINST ROME-ATHENS TERRORISTS.  
PODGORNY, SPEAKING AT DINNER FOR PRG LEADER, EXPRESSED  
HOPE FOR SUCCESS OF CONFERENCE, AND TASS HAS REPORTED  
GROMYKO DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA. REPORT THAT SYRIA WILL  
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NOT ATTEND PEACE CONFERENCE IS GIVEN LITTLE ATTENTION IN

PRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. STRONGLY CRITICAL ARTICLES ON ROME AND ATHENS ACTS CALL PERPETRATORS PIRATES AND BANDITS. PRAVDA COMMENTARY (ORESTOV) SAYS "PROGRESSIVE" WORLD OPINION HAS LINKED THESE CRIMES, COMMITTED BY PEOPLE CALLING THEMSELVES PALESTINIANS, WITH PREPARATION FOR GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE. CITING HUMANITE TO EFFECT THAT SUCH ACTS HAVE FREQUENTLY COINCIDED WITH ARAB SUMMITS AND NON-ALIGNED MEETINGS, HE SAYS GENEVA CONFERENCE MUST SEEK JUST SOLUTION TO PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. HOWEVER, ANY EFFORTS TO TURN OPINION AGAINST INTERESTS OF LEGITIMATE PALESTINIAN PATRIOTS MUST BE SEEN AS ACTS OF PROVOCATION, AND IT IS "NOT ACCIDENTAL" THAT PLO HAS CATEGORICALLY DENIED PARTICIPATION BY PALESTINIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN TERRORIST ACTS. COMMENTATOR CONCLUDES BY CITING PALESTINIAN INFORMATION AGENCY TO EFFECT THAT SUCH ACTS ARE DIRECTED AGAINST INTERESTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND SERVE THE PLANS OF THEIR ENEMIES.

3. ON TERRORISM IN GENERAL COMMENTATOR NOTES THAT ROME AND ATHENS INCIDENTS REQUIRE ONE TO TALK AGAIN ABOUT NEED TO END SUCH ACTIONS. HE SAYS MANY STATES HAVE CONCLUDED BILATERAL AGREEMENTS TO COMBAT AIR PIRACY AND GIVES OUTLINE OF JUNE 1972 SC RES CALLING ON ALL COUNTRIES TO TAKE MEASURES AGAINST HIJACKERS. HE SAYS USSR, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SC RES, HAS MADE HIJACKING A CRIMINAL OFFENSE. COMMENTATOR DOES NOT, HOWEVER, OFFER ANY SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR INTENSIFIED INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGAINST HIJACKING OR TERRORISM.

4. PODGORNYY, IN DINNER SPEECH FOR VIETNAMESE GUEST DECEMBER 18, EXPRESSED HOPE GENEVA MEETING WILL SERVE TO ACHIEVE A JUST AND LASTING ME PEACE AND PLEDGED SOVIET SUPPORT FOR SETTLEMENT ON BASIS OF TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED LANDS AND GUARANTEE OF LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLES OF AREA INCLUDING PALESTINIANS. PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT FROM GENEVA REPORTS THAT OBSERVERS THERE CONSIDER THAT REALITY OF CALLING CONFERENCE IS ALREADY SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS FOR FORCES SUPPORTING JUST SETTLEMENT IN ME. TASS ENGLISH WIRE FOR 3:30 PM LOCAL DECEMBER 19 REPORTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GROMYKO'S DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA.

5. PRAVDA PLAYS IN LOW KEY TASS ITEM REPORTING THAT SYRIA WILL BOYCOTT CONFERENCE. ITEM DATED DAMASCUS, REPORTS DECISION AND CITES SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY AS SAYING DECISION WAS TAKEN AFTER MEETINGS WITH U.S. AND EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS AND IN LIGHT OF FACTS ABOUT MANEUVERS SERVING THE INTEREST OF ISRAEL.

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**Subject:** SOVIETS DOWN ON TERRORISM, UPBEAT ON GENEVA ME CONFERENCE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ETRN, UR, XF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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